Stream: Apishapa River

Executive Summary

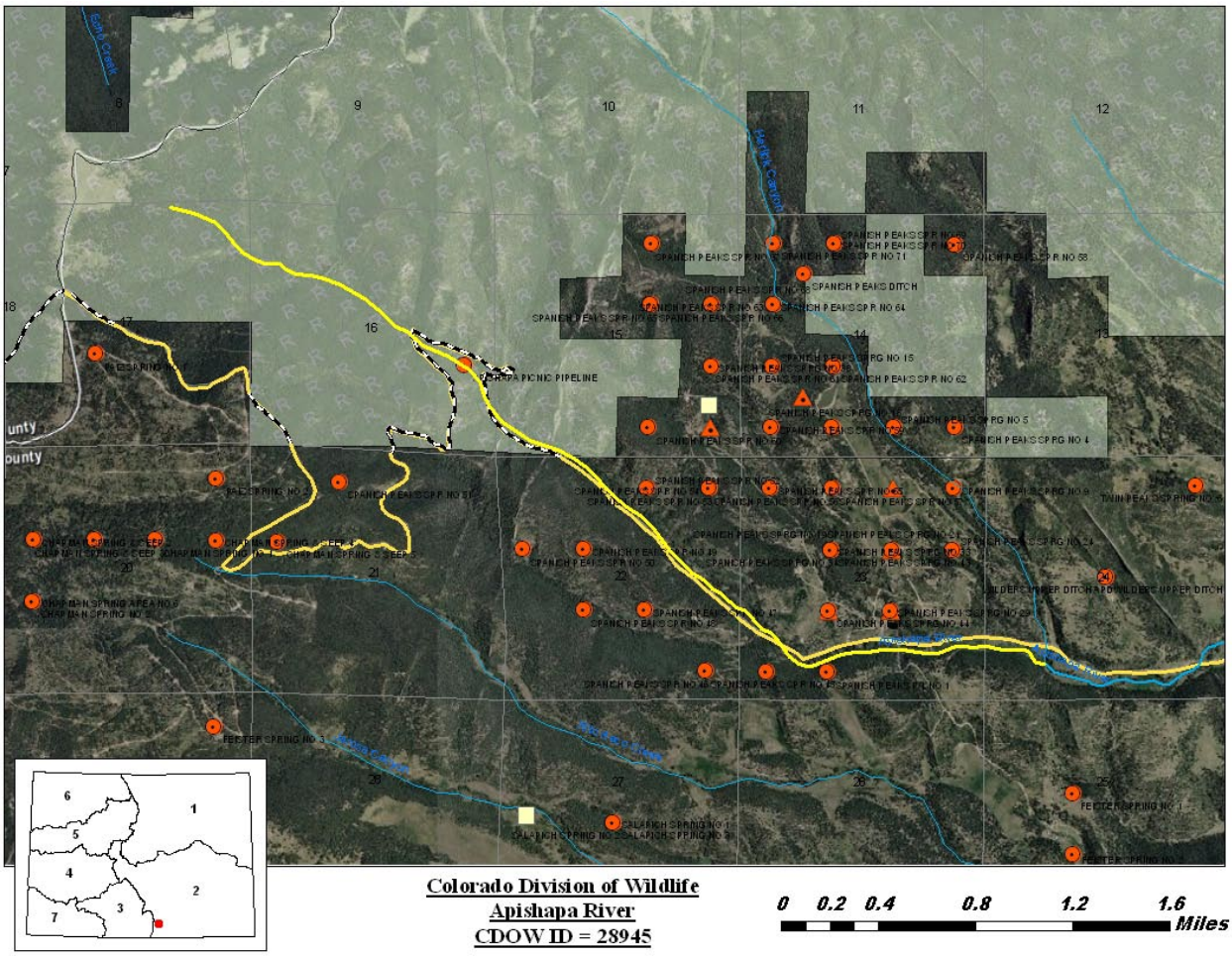
Water Division: 2
Water District:
CDOW#: 28945

Segment: Headwaters to Herick Canyon Creek

Upper Terminus: Headwaters
Latitude: 37º 21’ 12.8”N Longitude: 105º 01’ 00.7"W

Lower Terminus: Herick Canyon Creek
Latitude: 37º 19’ 34.4”N Longitude: 104º 57’ 04.6"W

ISF Appropriation: 2.85 cfs (04/15 – 06/30)
2.00 cfs (07/01 – 07/31)
1.10 cfs (08/01 – 10/31)
0.75 cfs (11/01 – 04/14)



The information contained in this report and the associated instream flow file folder forms the basis for the instream flow recommendation to be considered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (Board). It is the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) staff's opinion that the information contained in this report is sufficient for the Board's staff to begin the investigations required to support the findings required in Rule 5(i) of the Instream Flow Rules.

The State of Colorado's Instream Flow Program (ISFP) was created in 1973 when the Colorado State Legislature recognized "the need to correlate the activities of mankind with some reasonable preservation of the natural environment" (see 37-92-102 (3) C.R.S.). The statute vests the Board with the exclusive authority to appropriate and acquire instream flow and natural lake level water rights. In order to encourage other entities to participate in Colorado's ISFP, the statute directs the Board to request instream flow recommendations from other state and federal agencies. The CDOW is recommending this segment of Apishapa River to the Board for inclusion into the ISFP. Apishapa River should be considered for inclusion into the ISFP because it has a natural environment that can be preserved to a reasonable degree with an instream flow water right.

The CDOW is forwarding this stream flow recommendation to the Board to meet Colorado's policy "… that the wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and

managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors … and that, to carry out such program and policy, there shall be a continuous operation of planning, acquisition, and development of wildlife habitats and facilities for wildlife-related opportunities" (See §33-1-101 (1) C.R.S.). The CDOW Strategic Plan states "[h]ealthy aquatic environments are essential to maintain healthy and viable fisheries, and critical for self-sustaining populations. The [CDOW] desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats."

The subject of this report is a segment of the Apishapa River beginning at its headwaters and extending downstream to Herick Canyon Creek. The proposed segment is located southwest of the Town of Aguilar. The recommendation for this segment is discussed below.

Instream Flow Recommendation(s)

The CDOW is recommending 2.85 cfs, summer, and 2.0 cfs, winter, based on data collection efforts. This recommendation is based on the physical and biological data collected to date and does not incorporate any water availability constraints.

- 2.85 cubic feet per second is required to maintain the three principal hydraulic criteria of average depth, average velocity and percent wetted perimeter;
- 2.00 cubic feet per second is required to maintain two of the three principal hydraulic criteria.

The modeling results from this survey effort are within the confidence interval produced by the R2CROSS model (see Table 1).

Land Status Review

Upper Terminus	Lower Terminus	Total Length (miles)	Land Ownership	
			% Private	% Public
Headwaters	Herick Canyon Creek	4.2	50%	50%

100% of the public lands are managed by the USFS.

Biological and Field Survey Data

The CDOW, in August of 2010, collected stream cross section information, natural environment data, and other data needed to quantify the instream flow needs for this reach of Apishapa River. Apishapa River is classified as a small stream (between 10 to 19 feet wide) the stream environment of the Apishapa River should support a brook trout and brown trout fishery and the CDOW will sample the Apishapa River this summer.

Field Survey Data

CDOW staff used the R2CROSS methodology to quantify the amount of water required to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree. The R2CROSS method requires that stream discharge and channel profile data be collected in a riffle stream habitat type. Riffles are most easily visualized, as the stream habitat types that would dry up first should streamflow cease. This type of hydraulic data collection consists of setting up a transect, surveying the

stream channel geometry, and measuring the stream discharge. Appendix B contains copies of field data collected for this proposed segment.

Biological Flow Recommendation

The Board staff relies upon the biological expertise of the cooperating agencies to interpret output from the R2CROSS data collected to develop the initial, biologic instream flow recommendation. This initial recommendation is designed to address the unique biologic requirements of each stream without regard to water availability. Three instream flow hydraulic parameters, average depth, percent wetted perimeter, and average velocity are used to develop biologic instream flow recommendations. The CDOW has determined that maintaining these three hydraulic parameters at adequate levels across riffle habitat types, aquatic habitat in pools and runs will also be maintained for most life stages of fish and aquatic invertebrates (Nehring 1979; Espegren 1996).

For this segment of stream, two data sets were collected with the results shown in Table 1 below. Table 1 shows who collected the data (Party), the date the data was collected, the measured discharge at the time of the survey (Q), the accuracy range of the predicted flows based on Manning's Equation (240% and 40% of Q), the summer flow recommendation based on meeting 3 of 3 hydraulic criteria and the winter flow recommendation based upon 2 of 3 hydraulic criteria.

Table 1: Data

Party	Date	Q	250%-40%	Summer (3/3)	Winter (2/3)
CDOW	8/04/2010	3.79	9.5 – 1.5	2.90	1.10[R]
CDOW	8/04/2010	4.89	12.2 – 2.0	2.80	2.00

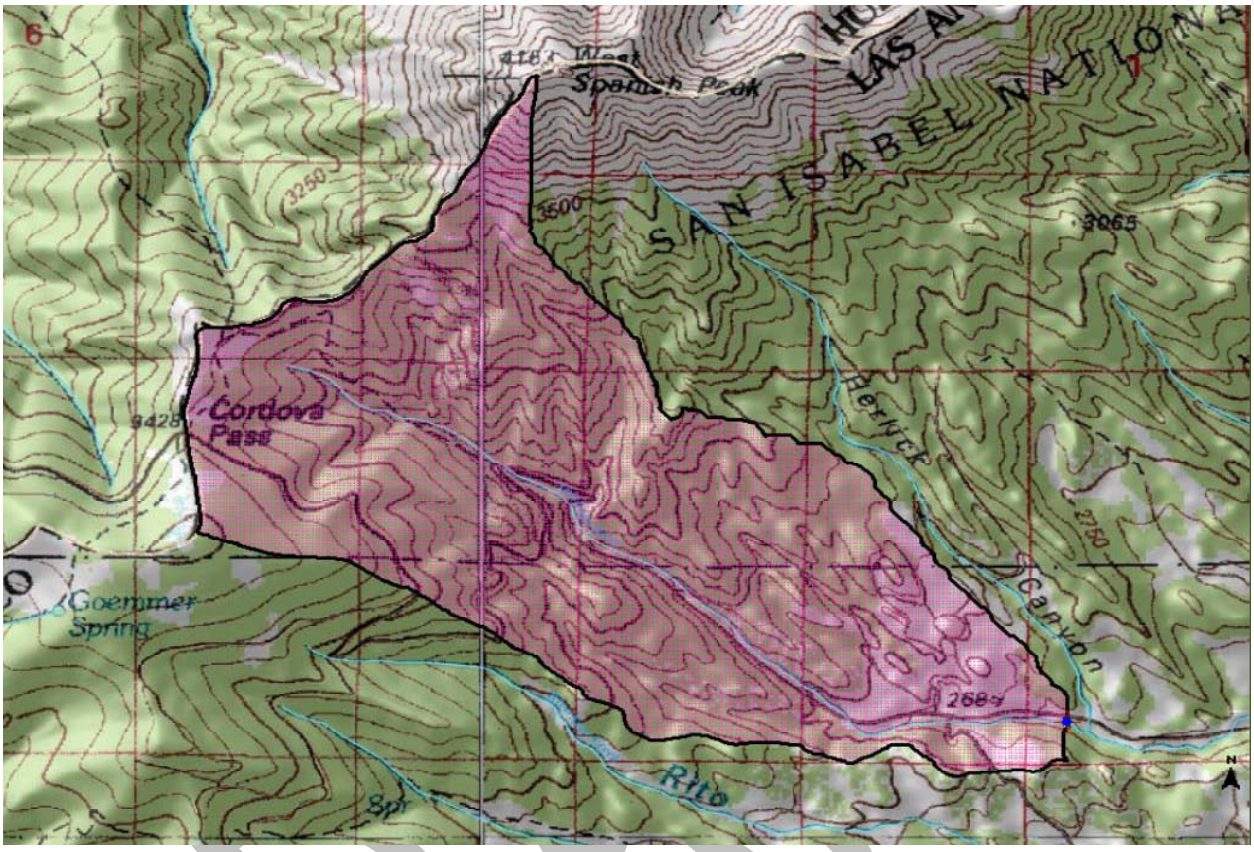
CDOW = Colorado Division of Wildlife R = Outside of R2X Accuracy Range

Biologic Flow Recommendation

The summer flow recommendations which met 3 of 3 hydraulic criteria and that were within the accuracy range of the model ranged from 2.9 cfs to 2.8 cfs. The winter flow recommendation which met 2 of 3 hydraulic criteria and was within the accuracy range of the model equaled 2.0 cfs. Averaging the summer flow recommendations that fell within the accuracy range of the model resulted in a summer flow recommendation of 2.00 cfs (See Table 1).

Hydrologic Data

The CDOW staff conducted a preliminary evaluation of the stream hydrology to determine if water was physically available for an instream flow appropriation. The hydrograph below was derived from data collected by the USGS stream gage for Cucharas River at Boyd Ranch, near La Veta, CO (#07114000), which has a drainage area of 56 square miles (See Gage Summary in Appendix C) and by the USGS StreamStats Water Resources Web Application Program (see http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/index.html). The total drainage area upstream of this ISF segment of Apishapa River is 6.0 square miles. The period of record for the Cucharas River gage was 1934 to 1981, the period of record used by staff in their analysis was 1934 to 1981, or 47 years of record. Table 2 below displays the estimated flow of the Apishapa River at the lower terminus of the instream flow reach in terms of a percentage of exceedence.


SAN ISABEL NATIONAL
Cordova Pass
Goemmer Spring
Herrick Canyon
Rito
3250
3500
3065
2750
2685

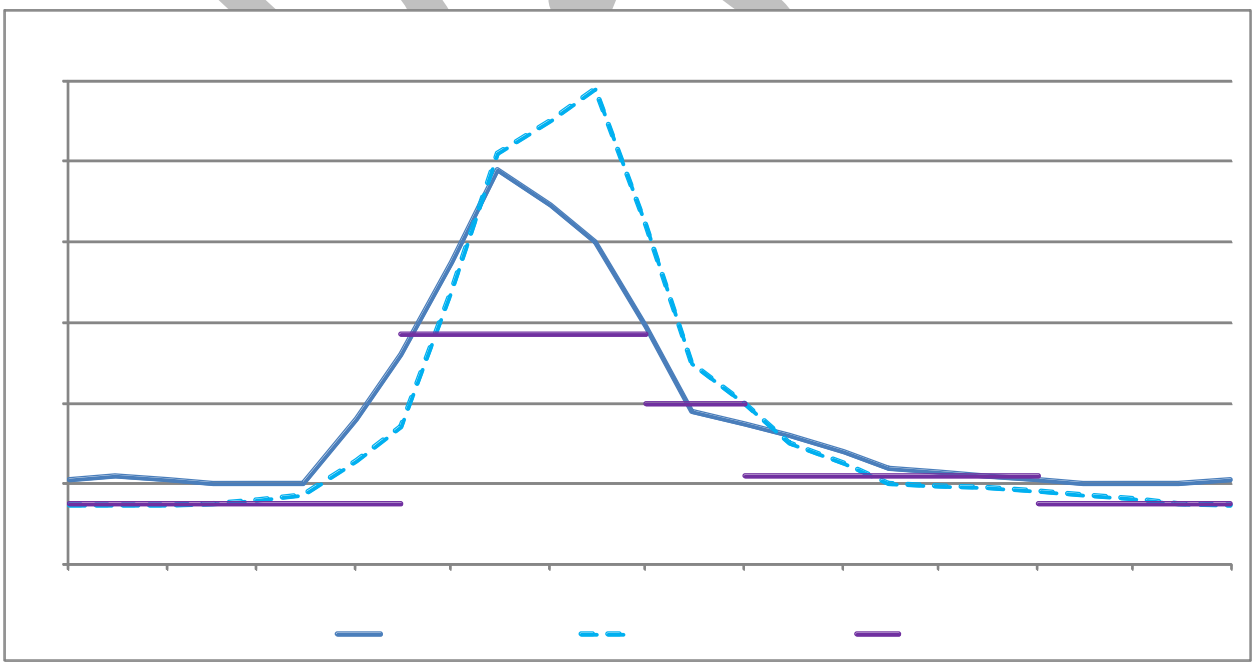


Table 2: Estimated streamflow for Apishapa River

Apishapa River			Drainage Area = 56 miles									
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1%	1.33	1.71	2.36	12.86	30.01	28.40	12.04	5.14	2.89	2.46	2.14	1.61
5%	1.18	1.18	1.71	7.18	22.14	19.93	6.96	3.64	2.14	1.82	1.61	1.29
10%	1.02	0.99	1.39	4.82	18.25	15.86	5.79	3.00	1.71	1.39	1.29	1.18
20%	0.91	0.90	1.18	3.11	12.11	11.57	4.29	2.46	1.50	1.18	1.07	0.96
50%	0.74	0.75	0.86	1.71	5.14	5.89	2.46	1.50	1.02	0.96	0.87	0.75
80%	0.59	0.59	0.69	0.98	2.14	2.46	1.39	0.94	0.75	0.66	0.68	0.62
90%	0.51	0.57	0.60	0.83	1.29	1.82	1.07	0.75	0.56	0.55	0.60	0.51
95%	0.47	0.54	0.56	0.70	0.91	1.39	0.83	0.60	0.44	0.49	0.54	0.47
99%	0.35	0.41	0.47	0.59	0.75	0.75	0.35	0.40	0.34	0.41	0.41	0.33

Apishapa River - Streamstats Mean Flow			Drainage Area = 122									
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	1.1	1.0	1.0	2.6	4.9	4.0	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0

Green indicates flow greater than summer flow recommendation and Yellow indicates flow greater than winter flow recommendation

Table 2 shows that the summer flow recommendation of 2.85 cfs is available at least 50% of the time for the months of May through June. The winter flow recommendation of 2.0 cfs is not available at least 50% of the time. Based on the preliminary water availability analysis the summer recommendation was further reduced to 2.0 cfs and 1.1 cfs and the winter recommendation was reduced to 0.75 cfs. After incorporating the above water availability constraints, the original instream flow recommendation was modified to the following:

- 2.85 cubic feet per second is recommended from April 15 through June 30;
- 2.00 cubic feet per second is recommended from July 1 through July 31;
- 1.10 cubic feet per second is recommended from August 1 through October 31;
- 0.75 cubic feet per second is recommended from November 1 through April 14.

However, if additional water is determined to be available in further investigations, the CDOW would recommend appropriating the additional water up to the recommended flow amounts to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree.

Existing Water Right Information

CDOW staff has analyzed the water rights tabulation and will consult with the Division Engineer's Office (DEO) to identify any potential water availability problems due to existing diversions. Records indicate that there are no surface water diversions located within this reach of Apishapa River.